

February 20, 2013

Governor Scott Walker  
State of Wisconsin  
115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

RE: Please include the Wisconsin Energy Jobs Fund in your state budget to create jobs

Dear Governor Walker:

Thank you for increasing funding to improve energy efficiency and cut waste in our state buildings in your last budget. Investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects gets people back to work, cuts energy costs, reduces waste and harmful air pollutants. We are writing to ask you to include the Energy Jobs Fund in your upcoming state budget.

The Energy Jobs Fund will expand a low interest revolving loan fund to cut energy bills at our 9,000 state facilities, almost 3,000 state schools, and local government buildings. The program could be funded by money held by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands—no new funding is necessary to achieve these energy improvements.

There are many reasons to add this to your budget:

1. **Creates jobs** — An Energy Center of Wisconsin study shows that investing \$700 million in energy efficiency creates a net savings of \$1.9 billion and will create 11,000-13,000 jobs immediately.
2. **Cuts energy costs** — We send \$12.5 billion out of state in energy costs each year, according to the State Energy Office. By investing in homegrown clean energy such as energy efficiency and cost-effective renewable energy measure like manure digesters, we can keep that money here and create good jobs.
3. **Good investment** — Cutting energy waste in our government and other buildings is a good investment—Focus on Energy returns almost \$2.50 for every \$1 invested.
4. **Updates technology** — Efficiency improvements like LED lights can cut energy costs by up to 80% with proper light levels.
5. **Succeeds in other states** — This proposal is modeled after successful programs in other states like the Iowa Energy Bank that lends almost \$60 million a year in a revolving loan fund. Many other states have used this in various forms.
6. **Succeeded locally** — In fact, Dane County found an average cost savings of 18% with energy saving technologies in its buildings.
7. **Cost-effective air pollution reduction** — Energy efficiency reduces smog, greenhouse gases and other air pollutants in a cost-effective way.

Please include these elements of the Energy Jobs Fund in your budget:

- Assess all major state facilities for potential energy savings using Energy Star Portfolio Manager or a similar benchmarking system;

- Create a comprehensive plan to reduce energy wastes and costs;
- Pay for these costs with capital borrowing, existing funds from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, or other low interest funding;
- Implement the plan to save money as quickly as possible while tracking jobs created, energy saved and pollution reduced;
- Give the Legislature and Building Commission an annual report on the savings, jobs created, and amount of pollution reduced.

Please include the Energy Jobs Fund in your upcoming 2013-15 state budget and let Rep. Brett Hulseby know if you have any questions at (608) 266-7521.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative Josh Zepnick (Ranking member, Energy and Utilities Committee)  
Representative Mandela Barnes  
Representative Katrina Shankland  
Representative Brett Hulseby